

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 606 without my signature.

California has many laws and regulations that protect an employee's right to adequate meal and rest periods, including a recently added statutory penalty against any employer who violates meal and rest period requirements. Yet, despite the strong foundation of California labor law and the numerous new laws added in recent years, the proponents of AB 606 believe that even more changes are needed.

AB 606 singles out one industry and places additional requirements on employers in that industry. Specifically, this bill would require longer rest periods and other accommodations for employees classified as hotel room attendants and would establish new reporting requirements and penalties for employers who fail to comply with these requirements. These additional penalties and recordkeeping requirements will prove a disincentive to job creation and economic development, things California needs.

I believe the foundation of California labor law is strong. California does not need more labor laws, just tougher enforcement of its existing laws, especially in industries with high numbers of vulnerable workers and a history of labor law violations. The Labor and Workforce Development Agency is focusing its enforcement activities on these very workers and industries, and I would encourage the proponents of AB 606 to work with the Agency as it pursues the common goal of protecting California workers.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger